



BRANCHING OUT

NOVA SCOTIA

New Brunswick

Department of Education • Public Services Branch

Nova Scotia celebrates African Heritage Month during February. During this period, communities learn about and celebrate the history, contributions and culture of people of African descent. The celebration is currently in its second decade in Nova Scotia. More information about African Heritage Month can be found at the Black History Month Association website at <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/heritage/BHMA/ahm.html>

What's New in Arts Education?

Curriculum documents nearing completion include Drama 12, Music 10 and Music 11, Advanced Music 11, Visual Arts 10 and Visual Arts 11, Visual Arts 12, Advanced Visual Arts 11, and Music 12.

Other initiatives include the development of new courses in advanced arts education. During semester 2, Advanced Music 12 will be piloted in five schools, and six schools will pilot Advanced Visual Arts 12. In addition, we would like to increase the number of schools that are able to offer Dance 11. Resources and professional development opportunities will be available to help schools introduce this course.



Junior Team Canada Global Leaders Centre (GLC) to be Held at Saint Mary's University on March 22nd, 2007

Junior Team Canada (JTC) is for students interested in gaining international business experience, exploring new cultures, and traveling to new countries. JTC is the official youth component of Team Canada trade missions and will be visiting Saint Mary's University for the Global Leaders Centre program. Youth aged 16-25 are invited to meet with Canadian business, government, and community leaders to learn first-hand how to succeed in today's global economy.

GLC participants are also eligible to compete for a spot in upcoming 2007 International & National Programs including Economic Mission to Asia, Development Mission to Africa, J8 Summit to Germany, APEC Summit to Australia, National Youth Ambassador Caucus to Ottawa. Attendance at a GLC is mandatory to qualify for these opportunities.

Students should register online at <http://www.gvconnects.com>. Follow the links to the Global Leaders Centre in Halifax. For more information, call 1-888-829-2838 (toll-free).



EBSCO has been awarded a renewed contract with the Nova Scotia Department of Education. Public

schools will continue to have access to databases such as Canadian Reference Centre as well as enhanced products such as the Advanced Placement Database and the most extensive professional resources collection available. Access is available to all staff, students, and families in Nova Scotia public schools through EDnet or using passwords that are available through your school board technology contacts.

<http://search.ebscohost.com>

BRANCHING OUT is published 3 times yearly in October, February and April.

Back issues are available at <http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca/branching.shtml>

If you wish to receive the newsletter, please send an email to lrt@ednet.ns.ca.

Visit the Nova Scotia School Book Bureau Website to Search for New Authorized Learning Resources

There are many new resources listed to support student learning. Teachers are encouraged to visit the Nova Scotia School Book Bureau website regularly — at <https://w3apps.ednet.ns.ca/nssbb/> — to conduct an “ALR Resource Search” and discover new and current authorized learning resources. The “Search Tips” feature in the left margin provides thoughtful suggestions for conducting successful searches by subject area, discipline, and/or course.

<https://w3apps.ednet.ns.ca/nssbb/>



**Coming Soon to a Classroom Near You...
Newly developed
Instructional
Passages for Grades
4–6!**

The development stage of an important teaching tool has just been completed. By the end of March 2007, teachers of grades 4–6 will receive *Passages: Instructional Passages for Active Young Readers*—a collection of 60 short, accessible pieces of text that will engage learners in grades 4, 5, and 6. The passages were written specifically for Nova Scotia students about the places and people in our province. They are sure to capture the interests and imaginations of students with a view to improving reading skills and strategies to better comprehend texts of all types. To benefit teachers in providing strong, effective practice, each package contains teacher notes, colour transparencies, and a CD.

Check Our Sample Lessons Online

Visit the Correspondence Studies website at http://lrr.ednet.ns.ca/corr_studies/courses.shtml to see sample lessons from some of our courses. The online samples will give an idea of the kind of work that is required by students to complete a Correspondence Study course.

http://lrr.ednet.ns.ca/corr_studies/courses.shtml

Pre-Primary Pilot: Preparing Children to Succeed



The Pre-Primary program is in the final phase of a two-year pilot. In 19 schools across the province, four-year-olds have been introduced to school life through the Pre-Primary program's play-based curriculum in which students use problem-

solving skills to negotiate a thoughtfully arranged play environment.

The curriculum and daily program encourage children's growth in the critically important areas of emotional maturity, emergent literacy, and mathematics. As outlined in *Learning for Life II*, our intention is to prepare children for their formal school experience — sending them to grade primary with a love of learning and excitement about school.

Early Childhood Educators (ECEs), trained to work with four-year-olds, have received additional in-service training in play-based programming, behaviour management, and language development as a precursor to literacy. In partnership with the Department of Health Promotion and Protection, the Department of Education has supported the creation of a physical activity curriculum and provided training and resources to the ECEs. The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia has also partnered with us in training and educational support to this program pilot.

Additional information on this successful pilot is available from Nancy Taylor, Pre-Primary Program Coordinator (902)424-4908 or taylornl@gov.ns.ca.

New Courses from Correspondence Studies



The Correspondence Studies Program, Learning Resources and Technology Services has released the following new courses: Mathematics 7, English 7, and Science 7. For information on these and other courses available, please visit our website at <http://lrr.ednet.ns.ca>.

February is African

Month



Une nouvelle ressource pour les programmes de français langue seconde

Le ministère de l'Éducation de la Nouvelle-Écosse, dans le cadre d'un projet du CAMEF, s'apprête à lancer une nouvelle

ressource dont le but est d'appuyer les programmes de français langue seconde au niveau du secondaire deuxième cycle, et en particulier le programme de français de base. Cette ressource est basée sur l'approche pédagogique des simulations globales.

La simulation globale est une forme de pédagogie alternative qui offre l'avantage d'apprendre la langue en la vivant. L'utilisation des simulations globales est une méthode d'enseignement englobante, elle touche ainsi donc à la majorité des résultats d'apprentissage spécifiques du *Programmes d'études, français de base au secondaire 2e cycle (2003)*.

L'idée initiale à la base des projets de simulation globale est que si, dans l'apprentissage des langues, les enjeux de la communication fonctionnelle sont essentiels, on ne peut pour autant négliger le plaisir, le jeu et la créativité. En se basant sur ces principes, trois projets pédagogiques collectifs et cohérents ont été développés, soit *La Croisière* (10^e année), *L'Immeuble* (11^e année) et *L'Hôtel* (12^e année). Chacun de ces projets est structuré de façon à faciliter l'enseignement. Chaque document est en effet divisé en une série de plans de leçons incluant de nombreuses fiches, d'activités, de stratégies d'appréciation de rendement et de suggestions de planification de la durée de chaque étape et activité.

Ces simulations sont présentées dans un classeur qui inclut les trois projets, un disque compact avec les fiches et autres documents reproductibles ainsi qu'un DVD présentant l'application d'une simulation en classe. De plus, le DVD présente de nombreuses pistes qui s'avéreront fort utiles pour les enseignants qui se lanceront pour la première fois dans un projet de simulation.



Join the LifeWork Portfolio Networked PLC!

The LifeWork Professional Learning Community is a

networked PLC for Nova Scotia teachers implementing LifeWork portfolios within Health/PDR and O₂. To join the LifeWork Portfolio Networked PLC, go to <http://forums.ednet.ns.ca>, and login using your EDnet username and password. (This is the same user name and password you use for the electronic LifeWork portfolio and IMP Ednet web mail.) We hope teachers will find this discussion forum a useful place to network and receive help from colleagues who are similarly engaged in the implementation of electronic LifeWork portfolios.

As well, teachers who are implementing the portfolio can join the LifeWork Listserv! Please subscribe at <http://mailman.ednet.ns.ca/mailman/listinfo/lifework>

Submit Student Portfolio Pages for the Public LifeWork Portfolio Gallery

The Portfolio Gallery and the LifeWork website (<http://lifework.ednet.ns.ca>) will expand to include samples of students' work that exhibit interesting approaches to LifeWork portfolio development. In the professional development sessions we have conducted over the last two years, many teachers have provided guided tours of sample student portfolio pages that reveal the effort, creativity, and thoughtful reflection their students have invested. Under the Portfolio Gallery link we have included a downloadable student and parent release form that we encourage you to discuss with your students. With your support, we would now like to include samples of students' work on the main LifeWork site. We hope that seeing other models of student work will stimulate additional creativity and reflection throughout the province. We look forward to receiving your students' LifeWork portfolio examples and signed releases. Identifying information such as a student's picture, name, and location will be removed prior to addition to the Portfolio Gallery.

February is Africam

Month

Free Web Development Tutorial CD

A number of tutorial CDs are available to assist you as you work with grades 7 and 8 Health/PDR, or senior high school O₂ students to develop LifeWork portfolios. The CDs contain/video files showing the steps for developing portfolios using the followings pieces of software: Frontpage, Dream Weaver, Netscape Composer, and Web Blender.

To receive your copy simply email your request to macdonnc@gov.ns.ca. Please include your name, school, and school mailing address including postal code. The CD will be sent to you immediately. You are welcome to duplicate the CD files for student and teacher use. We encourage you to share the CD with other teachers in your school who are implementing or planning to implement the electronic LifeWork portfolio.

Early Elementary Assessments

Evaluation Services is developing an Early Elementary Mathematical Literacy Assessment and an Early Elementary Language Literacy Assessment. These assessments are designed by Assessment Advisory Groups, comprised of teachers from each school board, following a well-defined assessment development process. This process is guided by Department evaluation consultants in mathematics and literacy.

The Early Elementary Mathematical Literacy Assessment will be administered to all grade three students (English, French, and French Immersion) in June, 2007. The Early Elementary Language Literacy Assessment will be administered to grade three students (English and French) in the fall of 2007. Both assessments will evaluate individual student learning in relation to the prescribed curriculum outcomes.

Teachers, schools and school boards will use provincial results, along with other assessments, to further improve individual student learning.

During the spring and fall of 2007, early elementary teachers will receive further information about the Early Elementary Mathematical Literacy and an Early Elementary Language Literacy Assessments.

Erasing Videotapes - an Advisory From the Education Media Library

The following programmes have been removed from the Education Media Library; our contracts stipulate that all copies made must be destroyed. Please erase copies of these videos that may be in your school so that we can comply with the terms of our licenses with distributors.

Solve It Series (V1925 -V1942)

Planet Earth Series (V0882-V0895)

Historica Heritage Minutes (V2476)

Please contact us at lrt@ednet.ns.ca for further information.

Geometer's Sketchpad: Integrating Information Technology to Accomplish Curriculum Outcomes

Secondary math teachers around the province are receiving training in using Geometer's Sketchpad: a program that enables students and teachers to work with geometric principles in an automated environment. This software provides students with an innovative and exciting way to integrate information technology into their learning. The new junior high math textbooks include activities that integrate Geometer's Sketchpad into the accomplishment of lesson outcomes. Geometer's Sketchpad is available through the ALR.

Public Schools Branch consists of the following Divisions:

African Canadian Services	902-424-3151	acsd@ednet.ns.ca	http://acs.ednet.ns.ca
English Program Services	902-424-8945	eps@ednet.ns.ca	http://eps.ednet.ns.ca
Education Quality Services	902-424-0040		
Evaluation Services	902-424-7746	testeval@ednet.ns.ca	http://plans.ednet.ns.ca
French Second Language Program Services	902-424-6646	fls@ednet.ns.ca	
Learning Resources and Technology Services	902-424-2462	lrt@ednet.ns.ca	http://lrt.ednet.ns.ca
Student Services	902-424-7454	studentsvcs@ednet.ns.ca	
Senior Executive Director	902-424-5829		
Regional Education Services	902-424-5799	(Halifax)	902-563-2080 (Sydney)
	902-893-5890	(Truro)	902-742-3427 (Yarmouth)

Nova Scotia Department of Education website: <http://ednet.ns.ca>

